



Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Nels L. Sorensen, Sheriff
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20 November 2006

Nebraska Public Service Commission
300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street
P.O. Box 94927
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4927

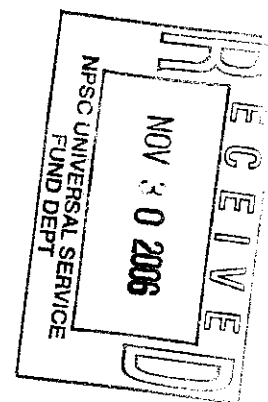
Ref: 911-027

To Whom It May Concern:

Some of the issues that are facing Jefferson County are the increased costs of operating the center and the decreased revenues that are being brought in. As is the trend throughout Nebraska our landline phone numbers are steadily declining and the cell phone numbers steadily increasing? My own employee's are getting rid of land line phone's and going with cell phone's.

Our system is one of the first enhanced systems that were in place in Southeast Nebraska. The age of the system is becoming an issue in that parts are hard, if not sometimes impossible to find. We have recently remodeled our Communications Center and had the system shut down for approximately 3 ½ months. We were very fortunate to have it fire back up when it was re-activated. We did have a monitor that did not and are still looking for a replacement. With the revenue that is generated by the \$1.00 surcharge we are not able to completely fund the operation and expense of the 911 center. The salaries of our communication personnel are not included in these expenses. The Jefferson County Commissioners have for the first time since going to Enhanced 911 been forced to supplement the 911 Communications budget with Tax funds. With tax funds so limited it was a very difficult decision for them to make.

We have priced a replacement 911 system for the communications center and we are in the \$150,000.00 range. At the present time if our system would fail and or



replacement parts are not available we would be in dire straights. The County along with Grant funds has updated our radio system to have greater interoperability with our neighboring counties and public safety agencies.

With the fact that there are now more cell phones than land line phones we are just short of crisis mode in Jefferson County. The Jefferson County Communications board is requesting that the Public Service Commission make this a priority to fund the recovery costs of replacing our aging 911 systems.

The Jefferson County Commissioners have not taken steps in imposing additional surcharges or taxes to recover the lost revenue from wireless carriers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nels L. Sorensen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nels L. Sorensen
Jefferson County Sheriff

Cc: Jefferson County Commissioners
Larry Dix, Executive Director NACO